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COMMENTARY ON KAMCHATKA PENINSULA  
(INCLUDING PETROPAVLOVSK)

1. The KAMCHATKA Peninsula may be used by the Soviets as an ICBM launch site or base for submarines with guided missile capability for attack against North America.

2. Concern that this possibility may be materializing stems from the following:

a. The strategic location of the peninsula, vis-avis the North American continent, in terms of proximity and free access to the sea.

b. The high sensitivity with which the Russians view the KAMCHATKA area, evidence of this lying in their reactions to ferret flights and past CHALICE penetrations.

c. The possibilities of guided missile equipped submarines at PETROPAVLOVSK, it being known that at least two with such capability for conversion have been constructed at KOMSOMOLSK and possibly have been converted at PETROPAVLOVSK. Furthermore, there is evidence indicating a considerable strengthening of the KAMCHATKA flotilla by the addition of long range submarines. There is reasonable possibility that at least one of these may be nuclear powered.

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d. Increase of shipping and air activity. In the course of the last two years, there has been a vast increase in shipping destined for PETROPAVLOVSK and other ports in KAMCHATKA, many of which were fishing ports not normally suited to the receipt of extensive cargo. Thus far, no explanation has been deduced for the movement of such large quantities of shipping although indications

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3. Accordingly coverage should be obtained not only of PETROPAVLOVSK but also of the following ports involved in handling the increased shipping and related activity and possible rail lines on southern KAMCHATKA which may be used in supported ICBM launch.

4. It should be noted that previous coverage of a portion of the KAMCHATKA Peninsula, namely, that in the vicinity of KLYUCHI, by virtue

to date confirms the suspicion regarding impact. It may be that recovery of certain areas by larger scale photography at a later date may be more rewarding on this point. Recovery at this time, however, is not urged.

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